

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Pending Claims

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacture comprising the following steps:

(a) mounting a slider to a zipper comprising interlocked first and second zipper strips;

(b) folding a length of a web along a fold line;

(c) joining a portion of a length of a first flange of said first zipper strip to a first portion of said length of said web;

(d) joining a portion of a length of a second flange of said second zipper strip to a second portion of said length of said web, said first and second portions of said length of said web being on opposite sides of said fold line;

(e) cutting said joined lengths of said web and said zipper along first and second lines generally perpendicular to a lengthwise direction of said web ~~said first edge~~ to form an individual shrouded slider-zipper assembly that includes said slider;

(f) joining a third portion of said length of said web to a first portion of a pre-made bag that partly defines a mouth; and

(g) joining a fourth portion of said length of said web to a second portion of said pre-made bag that partly defines said mouth.

Claim 14 (Original): The method as recited in claim 13, wherein step (b) is performed prior to steps (c) and (d).

Claim 15 (Original): The method as recited in claim 13, wherein step (b) is performed subsequent to step (c) and prior to step (d).

Claim 16 (Original): The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising the step of forming a line of weakened tear resistance in said length of said web, said line of weakened tear resistance being disposed in a lengthwise direction.

Claim 17 (Original): The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising the step of joining a pull bead to a fifth portion of said length of said web prior to said folding step.

Claim 18 (Original): The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising the step of inserting a portion of said individual shrouded slider-zipper assembly inside said mouth of said pre-made bag prior to performing steps (f) and (g).

Claim 19 (Original): The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising the following steps:

clamping said individual shrouded slider-zipper assembly during said cutting step;

opening said mouth of said pre-made bag; and

moving said clamped individual shrouded slider-zipper assembly from a location whereat said cutting step is performed to a position whereat a portion of said clamped individual shrouded slider-zipper assembly is disposed inside said open mouth.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising ~~the step of~~ tack sealing said length of said web to said pre-made bag prior to steps (f) and (g).

Claims 21-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (New): A method of making a bag having a shrouded slider-operated zipper, comprising the following steps:

(a) forming a structure comprising a length of a web and respective lengths of first and second zipper profiles supported by said length of web;

(b) interlocking said first and second zipper profiles;

(c) mounting a slider to said first and second zipper profiles;

(d) joining a first portion of said length of said web to a first portion of a pre-made bag that partly defines a mouth; and

(e) joining a second portion of said length of said web to a second portion of said pre-made bag that partly defines said mouth.

Claim 30 (New): The method as recited in claim 29, wherein step (b) is performed before step (a).

Claim 31 (New): The method as recited in claim 29, wherein step (c) is performed before step (a).

Claim 32 (New): The method as recited in claim 29, wherein steps (d) and (e) are performed after steps (a)-(c).